

First Summer Course in Animal Law in Scandinavia hosted by Aarhus University – July 2018

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Abstract

Last July the first summer course in Animal Law took place at Aarhus University, Scandinavia, one of Europe's most renowned universities. The course was created and lectured by Sacha Lucassen (MA Animal Law and Society, UAB - 5th Edition) and welcomed students not only from all over Europe, but even from Vietnam, Kenya, China and Australia. It revolved around the main question "How and to what extent are – or should - animals be protected by the law?" Experts in different domains within the scope of Animal Law delivered valuable contributions to the course during several guest lecturers. The course put Animal Law on the academic program in Denmark and will take place again next summer.

Keywords: Scandinavia, animal law, summer course, academia.

Resumen - *Primer curso de verano sobre Derecho Animal en Escandinavia en la Universidad de Aarhus – Julio 2018*

El pasado mes de julio tuvo lugar el primer curso de verano sobre Derecho Animal en Escandinavia en la Universidad de Aarhus, una de las universidades más famosas de Europa. El curso fue creado y realizado por Sacha Lucassen (Máster en Derecho Animal y Sociedad, UAB - 5ª edición) y recibió a estudiantes no solo de toda Europa, sino también de Vietnam, Kenia, China y Australia. Se centró en la pregunta principal "¿Cómo y en qué medida están, o deberían estar, los animales protegidos por la ley?" Expertos en diferentes dominios dentro del ámbito del Derecho Animal proporcionaron valiosas contribuciones al curso a lo largo de varias conferencias por parte de los invitados. El curso incluyó el Derecho Animal en el programa académico en Dinamarca y se llevará a cabo de nuevo el próximo verano.

Palabras clave: Escandinavia, derecho animal, curso de verano, academia

From the 3rd until the 20th of July 2018, Aarhus University was the setting for the first Summer Course in Animal Law in Scandinavia. It was the first time that Animal Law was part of the academic program at a law faculty in Denmark. The intensive course took place over three-weeks with classroom teaching consisting of lectures, presentations and discussions as well as a fieldtrip to see research on the welfare of animals.

The Summer Course in Animal Law welcomed students not only from all over Europe, but even from Vietnam, Kenya, China and Australia. Among the students present, there were law students, veterinarians, Ph.D. students and consultants from Ministries. A diverse class representing different cultures and traditions, proved to be an ideal setting to exchange ideas and engage in insightful discussions.

This course focused on some of the fundamental elements of the protection of animals in the legal system, while regularly making the link with morality and science, as these three disciplines intersect and continuously influence each other. New scientific findings on the state of animals lead to moral discussions on the treatment of animals, which in turn trigger new legislation in the area. As such, the course revolved around the main question” How and to what extent are – or should - animals be protected by the law?”.

The emphasis of the course was on the legal protection of animals in the European Union, by exploring the path of developing primary and secondary legislation on animals within the EU institutions. At the same time, the different interests and challenges at stake when drafting regulation on animal welfare was discussed. During the final week, a special focus was given to the on-going work of the legal animal rights movement, which seeks to change the legal status of animals and provide them with fundamental rights.

Throughout the course, we covered a range of topics from studying legislation and analysing case law from national courts and the European Court of Justice, to discussing and questioning the place of animals in the legal system and what kind of legal protection they should be granted.

Experts in different domains within the scope of Animal Law made valuable contributions during several guest lectures. Professor Iyan Offor came to Aarhus to teach the important topic of trade and animal welfare. David Rosengard of the Animal Legal Defense Fund in the United States gave an introduction to the legal protection of animals in the U.S. And lecturers Tarah Daly and Alessia Bacigalupo respectively addressed the contemporary standpoints on the moral status of animals and the link between animal abuse and human violence.

Animal Law is an emerging field and I am hopeful that the first Summer Course in Animal Law in Scandinavia will serve as a seed for the continuous growth of animal law, as I believe education is the most important tool in the mission for a better world for animals.



Photo - Courtesy of Sacha Lucassen



Photo - Courtesy of Sacha Lucassen



Photo - Courtesy of Sacha Lucassen



Flyer - Courtesy of Sacha Lucassen

Program Outline

Date	Subject	Teacher
Week 1		
Cluster 1	Animal regulation in the EU and the Council of Europe	
Tuesday 3rd July	Welcome, course outline, course objectives and expectations	Sacha Lucassen
Wednesday 4th July	The EU's political institutions and EU law-making in the ordinary legislative procedure	Klaas Maes
Thursday 5th July	The EU's legal structure and court system + representing the interests	Klaas Maes
Friday 6th July	Animal protection in a historical perspective and in current EU legislation (Art. 13 TFEU)	Sacha Lucassen
Week 2		
Cluster 2	Animal Protection and the WTO	
Monday 9th July	Trade liberalization and European Union animal welfare protecting trade measures	Iyan Offor
Tuesday 10th July	The World Trade Organization's chilling effect on EU animal welfare legislation	Iyan Offor
Cluster 3	The regulation on animals	
Wednesday 11th July	The interplay between science and animal welfare legislation – the concepts of sentience and animal based measures	Sacha Lucassen
Thursday 12th July	European Law on animals as it stands and bottlenecks for its implementation	Sacha Lucassen
Friday 13th July	The legal protection of animals in a European and global perspective	Sacha Lucassen
Week 3		
Cluster 4	The different approaches to the regulation of animals	
Monday 16th July	Philosophical overview on moral anthropocentrism in relation to animal interests.	Alessia Bacigalupo
Tuesday 17th July	Contemporary standpoints on the moral status of non-human animals.	Alessia Bacigalupo
Wednesday 18th July	Considering the link between non-human animal abuse and human violence	Tarah Daly
Thursday 19th July	Legal rights for non-human animals	Sacha Lucassen
Exam session		
Friday 20th July	Exam session	Sacha Lucassen

Program - Courtesy of Sacha Lucassen